

CALFED Water Quality Comments

Received after January 31, 1997

97-82

SOLANO COUNTY WATER AGENCY

February 3, 1997

Mr. Rick Woodard
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

*CALFED
Project
Selection*

*No response
Needed*

*W0 Projects
(Project
Selection)*

Subject: Relocation of North Bay Aqueduct Intake

Dear Rick:

At the December 9, 1996 CALFED water quality technical team meeting, relocation of the North Bay Aqueduct (NBA) intake to improve drinking water quality for the NBA Contractors was identified as a medium priority project. Actually, the proposed relocation may better be characterized as providing for a second intake since operational flexibility would be enhanced with a second intake compared to a single relocation. The NBA Contractors support the inclusion of this project on the CALFED early implementation projects list. We believe the listing of "medium priority" is appropriate for two reasons. First, we understand that high priority projects are projects for which the environmental documentation has been completed. Relocation of the NBA intake has not been adequately studied and a specific project has not yet been identified. Second, a study to identify the sources of drinking water contaminants in the NBA watershed is underway and will be completed in July, 1997. The preliminary data have shown that the current sources of drinking water contaminants are probably local, rather than from the Sacramento River. It will be more appropriate to discuss methods of improving NBA water quality after the current study is completed and after more information is available on the likely impacts on NBA water quality of the CALFED preferred alternative.

There may be other management methods that will solve water quality problems at the NBA that do not require the relocation of the NBA intake. We assume that the topic of "intake relocation" basically acts as a placeholder for general measures that may improve water quality for the NBA. The NBA contractors will prepare a proposal for CALFED during the summer of 1997 for inclusion in the next round of early implementation projects. In the meantime, we urge CALFED to consider the NBA system implications of the alternatives being evaluated for the long-term solution to the Bay-Delta problem. Please call me at (707) 451-2852 or Toni Bertolero of the city of Benicia at (707) 746-4238 if you have any questions or would like further information on the NBA system.

Sincerely,

DL Okita
David B. Okita
General Manager

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